

News Release

U of M Crookston Senior Matt Borowicz, Stephen, Minn., Sinks his Teeth into the Future

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Monday, March 16, 2015

In a high school class of just twenty-one, University of Minnesota Crookston Senior Matt

Borowicz was a standout. At 6 feet 7 inches, he played both basketball and football for Stephen Argyle Central High School, enjoyed science, and dreamed about going to professional school to study in a health-related field ultimately at the University of Minnesota. That dream is about to become reality. The foundation for Borowicz's future was set in place early. Great high school science teachers, like Mr. Kotts and Mr. Paulson helped him discover an interest and talent in both science and mathematics. His coaches were also influential and helped set his course. Borowicz is proud of his part in the longstanding tradition of success on the gridiron by the Stephen Argyle Storm. "Coach Kroulik instilled in us the belief that if each of us did our job, we would be successful," he says. "He was a mentor to every player and someone we looked up to and didn't want to disappoint. He encouraged us to do our best in the classroom as well."



When he graduated from high school, Borowicz had a number of schools interested in him. But, he chose the U of M Crookston because he saw the campus as a direct route to attend the University of Minnesota after he graduated. Like his high school role models, his Golden Eagle Football coaches have guided and inspired him. "Playing college sports is not the same as playing in high school," he says. "It requires greater dedication and commitment to hard work, and it is much more competitive." Coach Miller, who was on campus at the time Borowicz was considering his college options, played a significant role in his choice of Crookston. "He reminded me of my high school football coach," he says. "It definitely appealed to me to play for someone like Coach Kroulik."

Under Miller, and more recently Coach Mike Fritze, Borowicz says he has learned firsthand the real value of teamwork. "What I remember from my college football career isn't individual games and scores but rather, when we played well together as a team," he says. "Those are the football memories I take with me and they are ones I value." He was selected Capital One Academic All-America® Division II First Team. Borowicz, was one of 24 student-athletes across all of NCAA Division II football to receive All-America first team accolades for his performance in the classroom. He was also one of nine student-athletes recognized with the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award.

Coach Fritze and the rest of the coaching staff in Crookston place a high priority on academics. "In the classroom, I received the same message. Academics are important on this campus, and I knew I was in the right spot because I also wanted to focus on my educational goals, " he says.

Borowicz took advantage of a study abroad trip to New Zealand and Australia, served as captain for Golden Eagle Football, and has been involved with a number of clubs on campus, including serving as vice president of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Club. These opportunities have developed his leadership skills and broadened his experience. However, he values the relationships he has built with instructors, coaches, and teammates most of all. "At UMC we are focused on helping students develop and Matt Borowicz is a great example of combining both academic goals with athletics to accomplish this," says U of M Crookston Chancellor Fred Wood. "While the primary objective is to have all students develop academically, athletics has played an important part in Matt's development through a better understanding of the value of teamwork and commitment, and it provided him with leadership experience as a team captain. We are proud at the University of Minnesota Crookston to provide students like Matt with multiple opportunities to develop so they are fully prepared to achieve their career aspirations."

Choosing Crookston has led Borowicz to the next step just as he hoped it would. After a visit to the U of M to participate in a prep course, he has chosen the field of dentistry and will be attending dental school at the University of Minnesota in August. Borowicz's visit to the Minneapolis campus, seeing the school's facilities, working with their equipment, and experiencing a taste of dental school confirmed his choice and raised his anticipation. "I feel prepared for what is coming next," Borowicz says. "The faculty and staff in Crookston believed in me and have taken the care to get me where I want to go."

Over the past four years, Borowicz has become a true Minnesota Crookston standout. He hasn't held back on the football field or in the classroom and that effort is paying off. The goals he set for himself in high school are becoming reality and the payoff will be a degree and the professional career he has always wanted.

To learn more about Borowicz's career with the Golden Eagles, visit www.goldeneaglesports.com/roster.aspx?rp_id=1175&path=football

The University of Minnesota Crookston now delivers 31 bachelor's degree programs, 22 minors, and 36 concentrations on campus as well as 14 degree programs entirely online. These degrees are offered in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from more than 20 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

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